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duties. The administrators were very keen in regard to all financial privileges. For instance, they were entitled to two-thirds of a tithe on the proceeds of a verjuice factory in their neighborhood, and they were very jealous of any infringement, so that Barbe Samine, widow of Jean d'Audenarde, was forcibly reminded that she had no right to the product of her own sour grapes without paying toll.

The citizens of Mons were not invariably at peace with the ladies. The prayer bells were too constant to suit the taste of the burghers, and the ringing was, at last, regulated by the civil courts—a compromise that probably did not suit either party, the one still finding the noise too frequent, and the other the calls too few.

It is evident that many of the residents in the chapter were there for other reasons than vocational. Charles V. enacted a regulation about absences without leave—a regulation that suggests that freedom of action had been indulged in by the sisters. This was not unnatural if they were there purely as a provision for their future. The reception of Catherine d'Ongnies, aged three years and nine months, shows what the method was in noble families with many daughters to settle in life according to their station.

In addition to such bits of social gossip, the records have, of course, a real merit in furnishing forth many details about agriculture, household arts, and manufacture. In all these the chapter had an interest as its industrial operations were fairly extensive.

R. P.

The Political History of Poland. By EDWARD H. LEWINSKI-CORWIN, Ph.D. (New York: The Polish Book Importing Company. 1917. Pp. xv, 628. \$3.00.)

In this work, the author traces the long and complicated, but interesting, history of Poland from the time when the Poles first entered their present home until the declaration of Polish independence by Germany and Austria in 1916. Four chapters are devoted to the early period up to the union with Lithuania in the fourteenth century, five to the Polish medieval empire, three to its downfall, one to the Grand Duchy of Warsaw, four to the period after the Congress of Vienna, and the last to the Polish Question and the Great War.

The author points out in the preface that he has endeavored to give "an accurate account of the political and social evolution of Poland, based especially and largely on Polish sources of information", and has tried to "steer clear of extremes". In the main, he has succeeded admirably and has presented a very able and lucid account of the history of that country.

The work wisely refrains from venturing a judgment on the famous Piast controversy, or from explaining the high state of the development of paganism among the Slavs who lived to the west of the Poles. The

early influence of Czech culture upon the beginning of Polish civilization is slighted for some reason or other. However, the lucid way in which the author connects the results of the Mongol invasions in the thirteenth century with the infiltrations of German settlers and the *Drang nach Osten*, must be commended (pp. 35-41). On the other hand, it seems that the union of Lithuania and territories occupied by other nations has not been sufficiently emphasized in respect to the basic influence it had on the course of Polish history. Undoubtedly, it was the creation of a barrier before the pressure of the German *Drang nach Osten*, but it meant also the establishment of one of those cosmopolitan medieval empires, few of which survived modern times. Moreover, it meant a shift in the base of the Polish state from the banks of the Warthe, Oder, and Netze, to the Vistula and beyond. The Poles yielded in the west, which was basically Polish, to gain in the lands beyond the Vistula, which were Lithuanian and Little Russian. In other words, the national phases of Polish history have been more emphasized than the imperial. In such an admirable and well-balanced survey as this, the imperial aspects should have found a larger part, the more so because of the numerous lessons they have to teach the present age. But these are merely suggestions.

The treatment of Polish history after the partitions is comprehensive, and the final chapter on the Great War is as clear and concise as it is impartial. On the whole, the author tries to be fair and tolerant to the Ruthenes (Little Russians) of Galicia to whom he will not give freedom on the creation of the new Polish state. It is difficult, however, to believe with him that the Polish-Ruthenian controversy is based almost wholly on economic grounds or that Polish gerrymandering is mere politics (p. 542), when it gives the Poles some seventy-eight out of the one hundred and six seats in the Austrian parliament and about seven-eighths of the members of the Galician diet in a province where fifty-eight per cent. are Poles. Nor is it easy to accept his statement that the demand for a Ruthenian university is "utterly unreasonable" (p. 545).

The author is on the whole careful about spelling geographical names, although there are cases where, as with Czernihow (instead of Chernigov, p. 260), the Anglo-Saxon reader may be a bit puzzled.

Within the limits set down by the author the work is undoubtedly the best of its kind in the English language.

ROBERT J. KERNER.

Church and State in England to the Death of Queen Anne. By HENRY MELVILL GWATKIN, D.D. (London and New York: Longmans, Green, and Company. 1917. Pp. viii, 416. \$5.00.)

THE late Professor Gwatkin differed from both the traditional German and the traditional English type of professor of ecclesiastical history. Unlike the former, he did little to investigate new and difficult